

HONORING RONALD V. DELLUMS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to remember and pay tribute to Ronald V. Dellums, the pioneering, legendary, brilliant, and dynamic former Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee who represented the residents of California's 9th Congressional District in this body for 27 years.

Ronald Dellums died peacefully on July 30, 2018, at his home in Washington D.C. after waging a heroic but losing battle against prostate cancer; he was 82 years old.

Born November 24, 1935 in Oakland, California, to Verney and Willa Dellums, Ronald Vernie Dellums would go on to lead a consequential life marked by public service, active engagement, and passionate leadership.

These qualities—service, engagement, passionate commitment—were Dellums family traits; Ron's father was a longshoreman and active in the labor movement and his uncle, Cottrell Laurence Dellums, helped A. Philip Randolph organize the Brother of Sleeping Car Porters, before being elected President of the union in 1966.

In 1954, after graduating from high school, and during the height of the Cold War, Ronald Dellums enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served two years before being honorably discharged in 1956.

His honorable service to the nation enabled him to attend college on the G.I. Bill and in 1958 he earned an Associate of Arts degree from Oakland City College, followed by a Bachelor of Science degree in 1960 from San Francisco State University, an M.S.W. from the University of California at Berkeley in 1962.

Upon graduation from UC-Berkeley, Ronald Dellums worked as a psychiatric social worker for the California Department of Mental Hygiene and taught at San Francisco State University and the University of California at Berkeley, work which soon led him to become involved in local politics.

In 1967, at the age of 32, Ronald was elected to the Berkeley City Council, where he served until 1970, when he was elected to Congress as an anti-Vietnam War activist, defeating the incumbent in the primary, and winning the general election in a landslide.

In 1972, Ronald Dellums was reelected to the 93rd Congress and to the succeeding Congresses, never winning election with less than 57 percent of the vote.

During his tenure in Congress, Ronald Dellums served on the House Committees on Foreign Affairs, the District of Columbia, Post Office and Civil Service, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and Armed Services, which he chaired from 1993 to 1995 and was Ranking Member from 1995 until his retirement from the House in 1998.

Throughout his congressional career, Ronald Dellums, who cofounded the Congressional Black Caucus in 1971 and the Congressional Progressive Caucus in 1991, was one of the Capitol's leading authorities and voices challenging the underlying assumptions of the U.S. military budget.

Ronald Dellums also led the congressional opposition to the apartheid regime in South Africa, winning passage of the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 by congressional override of President Reagan's veto, the first override in the 20th century of a presidential foreign policy veto.

Ronald Dellums championed for equal rights for Americans and was one of the first to call for the integration of gays and lesbians into the military.

In addition to championing equal rights, Ron Dellums was a strong supporter of historic preservation.

He emerged as one of the most radical and outspoken Congressmen in Washington, and a spokesperson for African American community affairs and for his radical political beliefs.

After retiring from Congress in 1998, Ronald Dellums served as president of Healthcare International Management, an organization that worked with the newly democratic South African government to develop low cost, affordable healthcare and bring awareness, prevention and treatment in response to the AIDS epidemic.

Mr. Speaker, Ron Dellums lived a long and fulfilling life and made his mark in the world by making a difference in the lives of untold numbers of individuals.

I hope that Ron's family and loved ones are comforted by the fact that the lives of millions of people here at home and around the world were touched by the service of one of the great social activists, political leaders, and statesmen of the 20th century.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of Ronald V. Dellums, a tireless and eloquent voice for justice and equality, who did so much to ensure that America always strives to live up to the promise of its founding ideals and remain a beacon and example for the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2018

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call votes 386 and 387. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on the Previous Question in order to allow the House to take up and debate the Child Care for Working Families Act. I would have voted NO on the closed rule for debate on H.R. 6691.

RECOGNIZING THE 208TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2018

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 208th Anniversary of Mexican Independence and the 125th Anniversary of the Consulate General of Mexico in Denver.

In October 1893, Mexican President Porfirio Diaz appointed Mr. Casemiro Barela as the first Consul General of Mexico in Denver, Colorado. This moment marked the beginning of

the long and rewarding relationship between the people of Colorado and Mexico. I am proud to offer this recognition of this important day for the Mexico-United States relationship, but also for the Mexico-Colorado relationship, here in the United States House of Representatives. Not only is Mexico an important neighbor, but it is also one of our nation's greatest trading partners and closest friends.

Mexico is home to a hardworking and caring people. Through the generations, we have seen the Mexican people exemplify resiliency and courage leading to the development of their country. Mexico is a country of great culture, which has positively influenced the United States and its citizens for the better. The United States is home to a large Mexican-American community, and their contributions have undoubtedly made our nation stronger.

I am pleased to recognize the 208th Anniversary of Mexican Independence and to mark the 125th anniversary of the opening of the Mexican consulate here in Colorado. I look forward to the continued success of our southern neighbor and to watching the bond between our two nations grow stronger.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF TIM WALL
CHAIR OF THE VOLUNTEER AND
COMBINATION OFFICERS SECTION
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF FIRE CHIEFS**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2018

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, as the co-chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus I wish to recognize Timothy S. Wall, who will be stepping down as Chair of the Volunteer and Combination Officers Section (VCOS) of the International Association Fire Chiefs (IAFC) in November at the annual Volunteer and Combination Officers Section's Conference in Clearwater, Florida.

A third-generation firefighter, Chief Wall joined the North Farms Volunteer Fire Department in 1979. For the past 20 years, he served as the department's chief. Active in civic organizations and public safety agencies, Chief Wall became a deputy sheriff of New Haven County in 1980 and has served as a Connecticut state fire marshal since 2000. In addition, he is a former president of the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association and the New England Division of Fire Chief.

The mission of VCOS is to provide chief officers who manage volunteer and combination departments within the fire, rescue, and EMS delivery system with information, education, services, and representation to enhance their professionalism and capabilities. Chief Wall was elected Chair of the Volunteer and Combination Officers Section in 2005. Under his leadership, VCOS has been successfully performing its mission.

Most recently, VCOS published a joint publication with the National Volunteer Fire Council on cancer prevention within the fire service, which is the most pressing issue in the fire service. Other challenges include volunteer recruitment and retention, workplace safety, leadership accountability and emergency medical services. VCOS has always demonstrated leadership in addressing the emerging issues

that confront their members—whether it's through publishing reports, developing training materials or delivering important messages to our elected leaders. These actions require strong leadership, which Chief Wall has demonstrated throughout his term as Chair.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I extend my thanks to Chief Wall for the support he has provided to the Fire Caucus throughout the years. He understands the importance of grassroots advocacy and has always offered his support to my fellow fire caucus co-chairs and me to help us advance fire service legislation through Congress.

President Abraham Lincoln once said, "Don't worry when you are not recognized, but strive to be worthy of recognition." To me, these words describe the character of the men and women of our nation's fire service. Firefighters perform their mission not for recognition, but for a much higher cause: to safeguard the citizens of their communities. While Chief Wall has never sought recognition, I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation for his selfless dedication and commitment to public safety. He has certainly earned the right to be recognized.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2018

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, due to tropical storm Gordon, which impacted my district on 9/4/18, I was not present in the House and unable to vote on Wednesday, September 5, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 382; YEA on Roll Call No. 383; NAY on Roll Call No. 384; and YEA on Roll Call No. 385.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY OPEN SPACE AUTHORITY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2018

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th Anniversary of the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority. The OSA's work helps sustain and enrich our lives and is singularly important to the well-being of future generations.

The OSA was established in 1993 in response to grassroots efforts by citizen activists and the public seeking to protect Santa Clara Valley's natural resources. From a small agency, it expanded into a diverse organization with 700 currently active volunteers, serving areas of Santa Clara County outside the Mid peninsula Regional Open Space District. The OSA now owns and manages the Sierra Vista Open Space, the Rancho Canada del Oro Open Space, and the Coyote Ridge and Coyote Valley Open Space Preserves.

The OSA's accomplishments over the past 25 years are numerous and significant, involv-

ing extensive planning and collaboration with a variety of partners to develop foundational research and planning tools that guide their projects and inform their work. It is the first public agency to receive Land Trust Alliance Accreditation in 2017, ensuring best practices and standards for professional land conservation.

Currently, the OSA protects over 22,000 acres of land and provides permanent protection of habitat for 25 rare and endangered species of wildlife and plants. The OSA is the first agency in California to sponsor and develop a Regional Conservation Investment Strategy to promote the preservation of species, habitats, and other natural resources.

Year-round, the OSA maintains the availability of three open space preserves to the public and runs hundreds of different types of free environmental education programs for the public in our preserves and urban parklands. The OSA also provides over \$10,000,000 in funding to over 30 Urban Open Space Projects throughout our jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in commending the Open Space Authority for 25 years of hard work, its progress in its mission of conserving the natural environment, supporting agriculture and connecting our communities to nature is noteworthy. The OSA has been a key agency in our area to help guard our future by preserving vital natural communities, and connecting people to nature in our beautiful Santa Clara Valley.

THE SPANISH FLAG LOWERED FOR THE FINAL TIME ON TEXAS SOIL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the day was July 21, 1821. The heat of the Texas summer sun beat down upon San Antonio de Bexar, the future site of the Battle of the Alamo. The flag of Imperial Spain billowed in the wind above the roofs of the mission town. This day, however, would be the final day that this flag would fly over Texas.

For nearly three centuries, the Spanish governed Texas. Conquistadores, missionaries, and adventurers made their way to Texas, drawn in by the bountiful opportunities of the seemingly endless land. However, resistance against Spanish rule began to take root within its overseas colonies. In Texas, filibusters from the United States crossed into Spanish territory attempting to claim land loosely controlled by Spanish royal forces. Mexico caught the fever of revolution, and by the early 1800's, certain individuals, including Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, were promoting resistance to aspects of Spanish rule.

To make matters worse, Spain was forced to cede Louisiana as a result of the Napoleonic Wars at home to France, who then sold it to President Thomas Jefferson and the United States.

Eventually, the pressure became too great from within, and the Mexican War of Independence began in 1810. Revolutionaries, both Hispanic and Anglos, living across Spanish Mexico took up arms in open revolt against the Spanish occupiers. In Texas, Jose

Bernardo Gutierrez de Lara and Augustus W. Magee captured Nacodoches, La Bahia, and San Antonio, the capital of Spanish Texas at the time, and proclaimed Texas an independent nation in 1813. Despite their early success, the group eventually was defeated decisively by Spanish forces, thus keeping Texas under Spain's control.

However, the days of Spanish rule were numbered, and eventually the independence movement in Mexico under Agustin de Iturbide and Vicente Guerrero successfully drove the Spanish from Mexican shores once and for all. Mexico would officially become an independent nation on July 21, 1821. Having provided resistance against Spanish rule, Texas remained a part of an independent Mexico until the Texas Revolution fifteen years later.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to honor the state's history. The Spanish flag is one of the Six Flags over Texas, part of the rich tapestry of the state's history, and this event represents an important moment in the history of our nation. And that is just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2018

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present during roll call vote numbers 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, and 392 on September 6, 2018, due to recent surgery. I would like to reflect how I would have voted:

On roll call vote no. 386 I would have voted NO.

On roll call vote no. 387 I would have voted NO.

On roll call vote no. 388 I would have voted YES.

On roll call vote no. 389 I would have voted YES.

On roll call vote no. 390 I would have voted YES.

On roll call vote no. 391 I would have voted YES.

On roll call vote no. 392 I would have voted NO.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2018

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize St. Lawrence Catholic Church of Greenville, Illinois, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

St. Lawrence began as a mission of the Mother of Dolors in the 1850s but the first mass wasn't celebrated until 1868. At that time the congregation consisted of just a dozen families without an assigned priest. Eventually, the faithful were rewarded with a parish of their own in 1877, under the patronage of St. Lawrence the Martyr. The first church was erected a year later. A resident priest began to occupy the parochial residence in 1895, and shortly thereafter land for the church's cemetery was purchased.